

others? Have I employed my time, or have I squandered it? Have I lived out the day, or have I dozed it away in sloth or laziness? A thinking being must be pleased or confounded, according as he can answer himself these questions."<sup>1</sup>

In the gentleman's attitude toward women, Chesterfield differs from the earlier writers. Chesterfield has adopted the eighteenth century code of chivalry rather than the course of procedure ideally given by Castiglione. The latter's Lords were addressing at the Court of Urbine, their discourse to Ladies of the finest character and culture; Chesterfield's life was spent in paying addresses to women of questionable character and culture. The writers of sixteenth century conduct books patterned their code from Castiglione's ideal while Chesterfield endeavored to guide Stanhope through the superficialities of the eighteenth century court life. "For if beauty, manners, wit, goodness, knowledge, sobermode, and so many other virtuous conditions which we have given the woman, be the cause of the Courtier's love toward her, the end also of this love must needs be virtuous; and if nobleness of birth, skilfulness in martial feats, in letters, in music, gentleness, being both in speech and in behavior endowed with so many graces, be the means wherewithal the Courtier compasseth the woman's love, the end of that love must needs be the same condition that the means are by the which he cometh to it."<sup>2</sup> "A man of sense only trifles with them (women), plays with them,

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 529, Letter CCCXXIII.  
2. The Courtier, p 262.